

Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

1 9 8 4

A month into its new lease on life, luck is still with the Solar Maximum Mission satellite.

At about 6 p.m. CST April 24, thirteen days after being repaired during Shuttle Flight 41-C, Solar Max was able to observe the largest solar flare seen on the Sun since 1978.

The flare observation came less than one hour after Solar Max's 30-day checkout was interrupted for an operational look at a volatile region on the Sun. It was a pointing maneuver combining skill and luck which has delighted scientists at the Goddard Space Flight Center.

Solar flares are violent events most commonly associated with magnetic interactions and sunspot activity, and are a major source of the intense geo-magnetic storms felt throughout the solar system.

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The Space Shuttle *Atlantis* and her four-man one-woman crew crackled into orbit Thursday afternoon, easily meeting their deadline for getting the Magellan probe in position to begin its journey to Venus. The launch took place at 1:47 p.m. Thursday following an abbreviated countdown that – along with speedy repair work by Kennedy Space Center workers – prepared the shuttle for liftoff one day earlier than was expected after last Friday's launch scrub.

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The International Microgravity Lab-2 was secured in *Columbia's* cargo bay at Kennedy Space Center this week and the main engines were installed, keeping the preparations for STS-65 on track for an early July launch. *Columbia* is in KSC's Bay 2 processing hangar, and it will remain there until early June, when it will be moved to the Vehicle Assembly Bldg. to be mated with the STS-65 solid rockets and fuel tank. Ongoing work on the maiden shuttle includes checks of the IML-2 electrical connections, tests of the drinking water system, installation of the Spacelab tunnel and installation of the sleep stations used during the around-the-clock crew operations.



Crosswalk Awareness Week

May 24 - 28, 1999

Watch for activities and information focused on increasing driver and pedestrian crosswalk safety. Highlights will include:

◆ Celebrity Crossing Guards

◆ Special Guest Speaker

◆ Motorcycle Safety Activities

◆ Special Edition of Total Health and Safety Newsletter

◆ Crosswalk Awareness Contest

Crosswalk Awareness Contest Rules

As part of Crosswalk Awareness Week activities, the 10 crosswalks with the most Close Calls in the last year will be identified with a special "Top 10" yellow sign and numerical designation 1 to 10.

Objective:

Find the 10 most dangerous crosswalks on site.

How to play:

Submit entries via e-mail to ssafety@ems.jsc.nasa.gov

Subject line:

Crosswalk Contest

Deadline:

5:00 p.m. Wednesday May 26

All correct entries will receive a prize, with Crosswalk Awareness Week T-shirts going to the first 10 correct entries.

Near fatal car crash recalled at rally

By Mary Peterson

"How much blood must be spilled before you learn?"

This sobering question was put to the crowd, most of whom were old enough to be the speaker's parent, or in some cases, grandparent. The admonition: Don't ever, ever think you're lucky enough that you don't need to wear a seat belt.

The occasion was the SR&QA VPP rally held April 13 at Gilruth Center, where more than 400 people from throughout the directorate had gathered to reinforce their knowledge of safety, health, and VPP, and the diminutive 19-year-old had a dramatic and powerful story to tell.

Brandy Carmichael, daughter of Hernandez Engineering's Rindy Carmichael, had celebrated her 17th birthday less than a month before the tragedy on January 20, 1997, that would change her life forever. She began, "I am here to tell my story. It is not pretty, and I can't give people the full effect sweetly."

On that dark day, a school holiday and a homework-free night, Carmichael, her boyfriend, and two other teenage friends had left the movie theater at Mall of the Mainland in Texas City and were heading home, mindlessly engaged in happy teenage chatter, when the unthinkable happened. A car in front made an unexpected turn to go back in the other direction when it skidded into gravel and crashed into their car – head on. The driver, a 16-year-old boy, was killed.

Carmichael, the most seriously injured, was life-flighted to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston where, it was later learned, the doctors had written the grim notation, "Not expected to survive."

She described her fate. "My brain was bruised and bleeding. I had cuts branding my face and broken out teeth. My elbow was shattered, my pinkie finger was broken, my lung and spleen were ruptured, and my collarbone, pelvis, and right leg were broken. Most of my right side was crushed." All this – in spite of the fact that

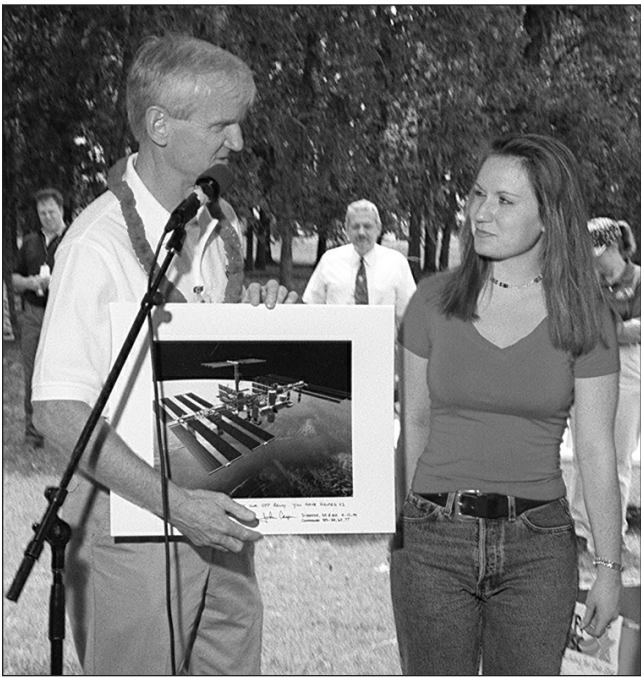
A living miracle, Carmichael graduated on time with her class and enrolled at a local college. The scars have mostly healed, and she doesn't look very different from a million other 19-year-olds. But the trauma remains. The mind is active, even creative, but the speech has slowed and thoughts are more deliberate.

"Our screams still haunt the night, and that boy's premature death still haunts my soul," said a much older-sounding Carmichael. When someone asked how this had changed her, she replied, "I am not the carefree spirit I was before. I don't take anything for granted. The teenage 'happy talk' is gone. I don't feel 'invincible' any more." And as a final reminder, she said, "Please let my story, my blood, be enough." On not wearing a seat belt, she said, "Ask yourself, 'Is it worth it?' I was lucky – but will *you* be?"

Prior to Carmichael's moving testimony, SR&QA Director John Casper welcomed the employees to the planned events, citing a good year in safety, but reminding everyone that much work is yet to be done before JSC can meet the world-class levels in safety to which it aspires. The remainder of the time was devoted to demonstrations and informational booths covering a wide range of safety and health topics that, according to Casper, "was more than just good – it was like a mini-Safety and Total Health Day."

Thanks go to SR&QA's Jeff Evans and CeCe de la Garza for planning and organizing the event.

(Anyone who would like the full text of Brandy Carmichael's testimony may contact Rindy Carmichael at x45078 or e-mail rcarmich@ems.jsc.nasa.gov.)



JSC Photo S99-05055 by Benny Benavides
Astronaut Col. John Casper thanks Brandy Carmichael for her testimonial with a personalized artist's rendering of the space station.

she was wearing her seat belt – yet it was the one thing that saved her life.

Then a remarkable thing happened. "Life replaced the dark cloud above me, and without realizing my surroundings, I became very determined," Carmichael said. "But I had a difficult road. I was a baby again. I could not speak for three weeks. I literally had to learn to live and function again. I had to learn how to feed myself, how to bathe, how to communicate. I remembered almost nothing of what we daily take for granted."

TICKET WINDOW

Exchange Store hours

Monday-Friday

Bldg. 3 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bldg. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

All tickets are non-refundable.

Metro tokens and value cards are available.

For more information, please call x35350.

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores:

General Cinema Theaters	\$5.50
Sony Loew's Theaters	\$5.00
AMC Theaters	\$4.75
Fiesta Texas	adult ..\$18.25 ..(child under 48") ..\$15.50
Astroworld Early Bird (valid through May 31)	\$17.75
Astroworld One-day Admission	\$21.00
Astroworld Season Pass (valid at all Texas Six Flags Theme Parks and Water World)	\$54.75
Water World	\$10.75
Moody Gardens (2 of 6 events)	\$9.75
Sea World	adult ..\$27.25 ..child (age 3-11) ..\$18.25
Schlitterbahn Water Park	adult ..\$20.75 ..child (age 3-11) ..\$17.50
Space Center Houston	adult ..\$10.25 ..child (age 4-11) ..\$6.50
(JSC civil service employees free.) Annual pass	\$18.75
Splash Town Water Park	adult ..\$14.50 (child 48" and under) ..\$11.50